



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

**Reading:** John 21; 12-15, 17

Jesus said to them, “come and eat.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. So Jesus went over, took the bread, and gave it to them; he did the same with the fish.

This, then, was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from death. After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “You know that I love you”. Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.”

**Reflection:**

John writes his 'Gospel' like a dramatist, Shakespeare or Arthur Miller. He carefully sets the scenes and crafts the dialogue so that we can grasp what is going on. He has Peter protesting to Jesus three times: 'I love you'. This was not just because he had denied his Lord three times. But, knowing the impetuous nature of Peter, Jesus will have understood what Peter was probably feeling. First, 'I love you, but how far can I go on loving?' Second, 'I love you, but my love is shallow.' Third, 'I love you, but maybe my love is not good enough'.

So below the surface of our faithful hymns and prayers there may also be the kind of reservations which Peter had. Yet, just as Jesus commissions Peter for his leadership role while knowing his limitations, when we feel our limitations, our Lord still gives us work to do, still forgives our failures, and still accepts us, warts and all.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ grant us a share in your divine humility, that knowing the shortcomings of our faith we may rely on your gracious command over our lives.